

LOUISIANA WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

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P R O C E E D I N G S

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, July 13, 1976

10:00 o'clock a.m.

DOYLE G. BERRY,
Chairman

Wild Life and Fisheries
Building, Room 102
400 Royal Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

Kathryn G. Chamberlin,
Reporter.



Helen R. Dietrich, Inc.
Stenotypists

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P R O C E E D I N G S

. . . . The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission convened pursuant to notice at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on Tuesday, July 13, 1976, in Room 102 of the Wild Life and Fisheries Building, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, Doyle G. Berry, Chairman, presiding. . . .

PRESENT WERE:

DOYLE G. BERRY, Chairman

HARVEY CLAY LUTTRELL, Vice Chairman

MARC DUPUY, JR., Member

JIMMIE THOMPSON, Member

DONALD F. WILLE, Member

RICHARD K. YANCEY, Assistant

Director.

A G E N D A

1. Approval of minutes of April 12 and April 27, (6)
1976.

DR. LYLE ST. AMANT

2. Request for a permit to dredge gravel and (6)
sand from the Mississippi River at



Middle Ground Island and Yucatan Cutoff, vicinity Mile 407-Mile 411 AHP; at Rodney Cutoff, vicinity Mile 380 to Mile 388; and Mile 390 through 395.6 by Richard Everett, Tallulah, Louisiana.

3. Request for renewal of permit to remove sand fill from the Mississippi River at Mile 108 AHP, Jefferson Parish, along left bank near Harahan, Louisiana, between Levee Stations 6348 and 6415 by T. L. James & Company. (8)
4. Request for renewal of permit to remove fill material from the Mississippi River, right descending bank at approximately Mile Post 124.65 AHP, at Hahnville, St. Charles Parish, Louisiana by A. Giambelluca Construction, Inc. (9)
5. Request from Lake Providence Dredging Company for renewal of their permit expiring July 22, 1976, to dredge sand and gravel from the Mississippi River at Willow Cutoff, Mile 463 AHP to Mile 461 AHP; and at Fitler Bend, Mile 477.7 AHP (11)



to Mile 478.2 AHP.

MR. HARRY SCHAFER

6. Setting of seasons on oyster seed reservations. (12)

MR. ALLAN ENSMINGER

7. Set dates for alligator season. (22)
8. Request for access location on Rockefeller Refuge, State Lease 4080 by Amoco Production Company. (48)

MR. RICHARD YANCEY

9. Consider application for mineral leasing of two tracts on Ouachita Wildlife Management Area. (51)
10. Approval of Justiss Mears Oil Company well location on the Russell Sage Wildlife Management Area in Ouachita Parish. (59)
11. Consider geophysical operations on Rockefeller Refuge. (62)
12. Approval of rules and regulations for mineral regulations on Ouachita Wildlife Management Area. (51)

MR. JOE HERRING

13. Establish dates of hunting season on resident (67)



wildlife and migratory birds including doves, snipe, rail, gallinule, woodcock and teal.

OTHER BUSINESS

14. Mr. Gerald Martinez - Discussion of bridge (20)
over Tangipahoa River.
15. Report on current legislation. (94)
16. Set date for August meeting. (94)
- NOTE: The following items of business not on the printed agenda were also considered:
- Alligator season in parishes other than (22;
Cameron, Calcasieu and Vermilion. 25;
Request to move alligators from Appendix I 27;
to Appendix II of International Trade 38)
Convention Treaty. (41)
- Specifications for printing hunting rules (91;
and regulations. 109)
- Rescind action on Agenda Item 11 (geophysical (93)
operations on Rockefeller Refuge).
- Report on Flyway Council and U. S. Fish and (101)
Wildlife Service meetings.
- Tensas Levee Board Servitude. (105)
- Recommendation for changes in frog and raccoon (107
hunting seasons. 108)



CHAIRMAN DOYLE G. BERRY: We will call the meeting to order, please.

Our Director is out of this morning. He had some urgent business in Baton Rouge to attend to. Mr. Yancey is going to stand in for him.

The first item on the agenda this morning is approval of the minutes of April 12 and April 27 meetings. Do I have a motion?

MR. WILLE: I so move.

MR. LUTTRELL: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Wille and seconded by Mr. Luttrell. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

So ordered.

Are you going to handle Dr. St. Amant's stuff this morning, Harry?

MR. HARRY SCHAFER: Yes, sir. Mr. Chairman, the first item we have on the agenda is a request from Mr. Richard Everett for a permit to dredge gravel and sand from the



Mississippi River in three areas around Yucatan Cutoff, at Rodney Cutoff and at Miles AHP 380, 390 and 395.6.

We have checked this out and he meets all the requirements and we would recommend that we issue him a permit. It will be for the one year and for the gravel there is a different -- I think it is 15 cents a yard that we get.

MR. WILLE: So move.

MR. DUPUY: Question. It is 15 cents a yard for gravel and five cents for the sand fill material?

MR. SCHAFER: Five cents for the sand material.

MR. DUPUY: One-year term?

MR. SCHAFER: One-year term, right.

MR. DUPUY: I will second it.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Wille and seconded by Mr. Dupuy. All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)



THE CHAIRMAN: So ordered.

(The full text of the
resolution is here made
a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the
Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries
Commission does hereby grant per-
mission to RICHARD EVERETT dba EVERETT
MACHINERY COMPANY to remove gravel and
sand from the Mississippi River at
Middle Ground Island and Yucatan
Cutoff, vicinity of Mile 407 to Mile
411 AHP; and at Rodney Cutoff,
vicinity of Mile 380 AHP to Mile 388
AHP; and Mile 390 AHP through Mile
395.6 AHP, for a period of one year
from July 13, 1976 to July 13, 1977.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Schafer, these other
three permits, we will of course want to make a
motion on each one of them, but in order to save
a little time, are they all the standard vanilla?

MR. SCHAFFER: They are standard and
they are for renewal. We find everything in order



and we would recommend approval.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. Number Three.

MR. WILLE: I so move.

MR. DUPUY: I will second that.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Wille and seconded by Mr. Dupuy. All in favor?

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: So ordered.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to T. L. JAMES & COMPANY, INC. to remove sand and/or fill material from the Mississippi River at Mile 108 AHP, along left bank near Harahan, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, for a period of one year from July 13, 1976 to July 13, 1977, at a royalty rate of five cents per cubic yard.

THE CHAIRMAN: Number Four is a request



from Giambelluca Construction Company in St. Charles Parish.

MR. THOMPSON: I move.

MR. LUTTRELL: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Luttrell. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

So ordered.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to A. GIAMBELLUCA CONSTRUCTION, INC. to remove fill material from the Mississippi River, Right Descending Bank, at approximately Mile Post 124.65 AHP, at Hahnville, St. Charles Parish, Louisiana, for a period of one year from July 13, 1976 to July 13, 1977



at a royalty rate of five cents per cubic yard.

THE CHAIRMAN: The next is a request from Lake Providence Dredging Company. Do I have a motion on that?

MR. LUTTRELL: I so move.

MR. THOMPSON: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Luttrell, seconded by Mr. Thompson. All in favor?

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

So ordered.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to LAKE PROVIDENCE DREDGING COMPANY to dredge sand and gravel from the Mississippi River at Willow Cutoff, Mile 463 AHP to Mile 461 AHP;



and at Fidler Bend, Mile 477.7 AHP to Mile 478.2 AHP, for a period of one year from July 22, 1976 to July 22, 1977.

THE CHAIRMAN: Now we will get into the oyster season.

MR. SCHAFER: Mr. Chairman, we would like to recommend setting the seasons for three reservations and the Calcasieu Lake.

We would recommend that the Hackberry Bay and the Sister Lake oyster seed reservations be opened the Wednesday following Labor Day and will run concurrent to the state oyster season.

Bay Gardene, we would recommend that it be opened on Tuesday, October 5, and run through Sunday, October 31, using a daily permit system. We planted about \$210,000 worth of shells in this area two years ago and we are trying to get the production that comes off this, and that is why we are going to a permit system for this area.

For the Lake Charles-Calcasieu-Lake area we would recommend that this season be opened November 15, that is one-half hour before sunrise



on Monday, November 15, and run through one-half hour after sunset Thursday, March 31, 1977.

That would be limited only to the use of tongs during the daylight hours, and that the areas be confined to Calcasieu Lake with the exception of Calcasieu River, the Ship Channel, East Fork, West Fork, and Oyster Bayou, which is closed because of the pollution in those areas. It is usually closed by the Health Department.

The three-inch culling law will be observed and the catch will be culled and put back into the area.

Taking for commercial purposes will be limited to 15 sacks a day per boat. Taking for home consumption will be limited to two sacks or three bushels per day. In commercial fishing of the oysters there, we recommend that they do it with the proper licenses.

We would recommend that the Director be given the authority to close any of these areas earlier if biological data proves that they should be closed.

THE CHAIRMAN: I am sure this gentleman



wants to make a little comment on this. Do you want to --

MR. PETER VUNOVICH: Yes, that is why I came here. I thought maybe you would ask my position.

Gentlemen, I have been in the oyster business for a long, long time. 1975 and '76 was one of the best oyster seasons that Louisiana ever had, money-wise and I believe sales-wise. '76 and '77 season, I hate to say this, but it looks a mighty, mighty weak one. I stuck my neck out and I stated that it was going to be one of the poorest oyster seasons that Louisiana has had in many years. I hope I am wrong but I don't think so.

But we do have a little help in that the Hackberry Bay (Du Chene) area, we planted \$100,000 worth of shells about four or five years ago and the water was strictly on the sweet side all these years and this year the water out there changed, the saltwater came in, and they have quite a bit of oysters in that area, so that's a little help to the industry.

One thing that I like about it is asking



that you all open the season on Wednesday and that the Director has the power to close it if the people in the oyster industry wants it to be closed earlier this year than ever was closed, because I think that our reefs are going to be pretty well depleted by the time the first of the year comes along.

Thank you, gentlemen.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, sir.

MR. THOMPSON: So move.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have a motion by Mr. Thompson. Do I have a second?

MR. WILLE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Wille.
All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(The full text of the
resolution is here made
a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the natural oyster



reefs ("Oyster Seed Grounds") under the managerial supervision of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission must open on the first Wednesday following Labor Day, September 8, 1976, as provided for by Louisiana Law Title 56, Section 433, which also authorizes the Commission to regulate the size limit and area closures after January 1 of each year on state controlled grounds, and

WHEREAS, "Oyster Seed Reservations" are small portions of the "Oyster Seed Grounds" managed and controlled for seed oyster production which are opened on alternate years,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby open the Hackberry Bay (Du Chene) Oyster Seed Reservation and the Sister Lake Oyster Seed Reservation, in accordance with



Louisiana Law Title 56, Section 433, which opens said seasons one-half (1/2) hour before sunrise on the first Wednesday following Labor Day, September 8, 1976. Said seasons shall remain open with the same regulations as the regular oyster season; however, the Director shall be authorized and empowered to close the two areas if it is deemed necessary by biological investigations and sampling;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Bay Gardene Oyster Seed Reservation shall open on Tuesday, October 5, 1976 and close on Sunday, October 31, 1976, with the reservation being fished on a daily permit system to allow for a determination of the production from this area. The Director shall be authorized and empowered to close the season if it is deemed necessary by biological investigations and sampling.



WHEREAS, the Commission biologists and the Chief of the Oysters, Water Bottoms and Seafoods Division have recommended the fishing of the oysters in Calcasieu Lake with the exception of the Calcasieu River and Ship Channel, East Fork, West Fork and Oyster Bayou, and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Health will examine the growing oysters of this aforementioned area and approve the waters for fishing oysters if the health standards are met,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission that the Calcasieu Lake Oyster Season for 1976-77 be set in accordance with the following rules and regulations:

- (1) That the oyster season in Calcasieu Lake be fixed to extend from one-half hour



before sunrise on Monday,
November 15, 1976 through
one-half hour after sunset on
Thursday, March 31, 1977, with
the right being reserved to
extend said season or close it
sooner if biologically justifi-
fiable.

- (2) That oyster fishing be limited
only to the use of tongs and to
daylight hours.
- (3) The open areas shall be confined
to the area of Calcasieu Lake,
with the exception of Calcasieu
River and Ship Channel, East Fork,
West Fork and Oyster Bayou which
shall be closed.
- (4) The three-inch culling law shall
be observed by all fishermen
fishing the area and the culls
shall be scattered around the
perimeter of the reefs to pro-
vide for expansion and future



harvesting.

- (5) The taking of oysters for commercial purposes shall be limited to 15 sacks per boat per day.
- (6) The taking of oysters for home consumption shall be limited to three bushels (two sacks) per boat per day.
- (7) All commercial fishing of oysters shall be done only with proper licenses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director be and is hereby authorized and empowered to extend or close said season, if biologically sound.

THE CHAIRMAN: I am going to leave the agenda and call Mr. Martinez up. I believe he wants to get at some other business pretty shortly and we will get him out of here.

MR. GERALD MARTINEZ: Thank you, sir.

Members of the Commission, we have the matter of Gifford-Hill which has come up again. Gifford-Hill's request for a permit is still



pending on appeal. The appeal hearing has been continued several times, awaiting an opinion from the Attorney General on the procedures, the rules of procedure adopted by the Commission or requested by the Commission to use for that appeal hearing.

In light of the fact that the opinion from the Attorney General has not arrived yet, I would suggest to the Commission that they proceed to adopt formal rules of procedure for appeal and that they notice their intent to do so in the next issue of the State Register and State Journal, which would put us in a position to adopt the rules, or at least consider the rules, at the September meeting of the Board.

I would suggest that the Board move to notify its intent to adopt rules at the September meeting.

MR. THOMPSON: Do you need a motion?

MR. MARTINEZ: Yes, I think we do.

MR. THOMPSON: I so move.

MR. WILLE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Wille. All in favor say aye.



IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

Thank you, Gerald.

O. K., Mr. Ensminger. Have you got an alligator season in there for St. Mary and Terrebonne yet, Allan?

MR. ALLAN ENSMINGER: I am afraid we may not be able to set one for you at this moment, Doyle. We, of course, do have the authority to set an alligator season in that portion of the state that has been delisted by the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and this would include the parishes of Calcasieu, Cameron and Vermilion.

THE CHAIRMAN: Allan, let me interrupt you a minute. I want the press to take note of this. We have been after the federal people now for about three years to give us an alligator season down in Terrebonne and St. Mary Parishes, and it is not the alligators, it's the local citizens that are on the endangered species list down there now. I am afraid that the people are



going to harvest those 'gators and get them out of the way because they are getting to be a menace.

This is just another situation where the federal government has stuck its nose in the State of Louisiana's business and really impeded what should have been done here in the beginning. I think everybody who is familiar with the situation down in that area knows that we need an alligator season and should have already had one. I wish the feds would run their business in Washington and let us run ours in Louisiana.

Thank you.

MR. ENSMINGER: This is very accurate. Of course, the Fish and Wildlife Service in the latest action removed the 'gator from the endangered category down to the threatened category and at that time they should have completely delisted these coastal parishes of Louisiana. They had data available to them at that time that would have supported complete delisting of the alligator in that portion of its range where it had recovered from serious conditions.



I would like to see the Commission adopt a resolution today requesting that these areas in Louisiana that are presently supporting a good population of alligators be completely delisted like Cameron, Calcasieu and Vermilion, so that our Commission would have authority in the future to set seasons there.

But the matter before you today is the establishment of the season in that area that is open. We have run our alligator inventories and looked at the coast, and in those open areas we would recommend that the alligator season in 1976 open on September 9, extend through October 8. This will give us a 30-day season. This permits a sufficient harvest of 'gators from that area. We are at the present time working up quotas on the number of 'gators that can be harvest in this season. We suspect that our number available for harvest will be up over last year.

I would recommend that the Commission establish the dates of September 9 through October 8 as the alligator season for 1976.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, we don't have



a quorum of this Board right now. We will have to wait till Mr. Luttrell comes back in. Would you ask him to come back in, please. I don't want to make a motion with only three of us sitting here.

MR. DUPUY: While we are waiting for Mr. Luttrell and a quorum, I would like to call attention to the House Concurrent Resolution No. 10 of the Louisiana Legislature, urging and requesting this Commission and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to adopt regulations permitting an alligator season in the parishes of St. Mary, Terrebonne and Lafourche, Tangipahoa and Orleans, and that part of Ward One (formerly Ward Six) of St. Martin.

We are aware of this concurrent resolution and we are doing whatever we can to have an alligator season in there.

THE CHAIRMAN: Good sir, are you offering this in the form of a motion?

MR. DUPUY: Well, you have one I believe, or we are considering the fixing of the seasons, but this I just wanted to bring out while we were



talking here.

THE CHAIRMAN: Right. Gentlemen, you have heard the recommendation of Mr. Ensminger. Do I have a motion?

MR. WILLE: I will move.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Wille.

MR. WILLE: And could I make an amendment to the move?

THE CHAIRMAN: We have to have a motion first and then you can amend it.

MR. WILLE: Oh, separate motions. O. K. I move.

MR. DUPUY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Dupuy.

MR. WILLE: I would like to move that Mr. Dupuy's wire be adopted as a resolution.

MR. DUPUY: This is a resolution. It is a concurrent resolution of the Louisiana legislature.

MR. WILLE: Well, how about the Commission adopting it or --

MR. DUPUY: Well, we are doing what we can to try to have an alligator season enacted, so --



MR. WILLE: O. K. It shouldn't be entered in the minutes as a --

MR. DUPUY: No, I just wanted to bring this out so that the legislature is aware of the fact that we are --

MR. ENSMINGER: Mr. Dupuy, may I make a comment there? To additionally delist additional areas in Louisiana under the Endangered Species Act as passed in 1973, this requires that the Governor of the state contact the appropriate officials in Washington and officially request the delisting. I would like to see you all adopt a resolution asking the Governor to do this and in that same resolution I think it would be appropriate to incorporate the concurrent resolution of the legislature in that one and mention the concurrent resolution in the Governor's letter to the appropriate officials in Washington along with our official request for delisting.

THE CHAIRMAN: Let's get a vote, we have a motion before us now. All in favor of this motion say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.



THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(The full text of the
resolution is here made
a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, Louisiana's efforts
to manage the resident population of
alligators for the past 16 years has
substantially increased the total
population, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild
Life and Fisheries Commission has,
during 1972, 1973, and 1975 success-
fully demonstrated that a periodic
commercial harvest, based upon com-
prehensive population inventories,
can be closely controlled, and

WHEREAS, data collected
during the 1972, 1973, and 1975
seasons and from aerial inventory
during July, 1976, reflects that
the seasons were beneficial in all



respects, and

WHEREAS, increasing population levels in Cameron, Vermilion and Calcasieu Parishes now warrant the establishment and continuation of a season in this region of the state, and

WHEREAS, it has been determined from the past three seasons that the system developed for conducting the harvest of animals through a rigidly controlled set of regulations worked out extremely well, and

WHEREAS, no evidence was found that the opening of the three previous seasons encouraged illegal killing of these reptiles, and

WHEREAS, alligators are a renewable resource and should be managed on a sustained yield basis thereby providing economic incentive for preserving marshlands,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
that an alligator season be hereby



established in accordance with the following regulations: No exceptions of these procedures will be permitted, and anyone taking alligators contrary to these regulations will be charged in accordance with the Louisiana Revised Statutes and/or Endangered Species Act of 1973:

1. Open area - Parishes of Calcasieu, Cameron, and Vermilion. An estimated 110,000 alligators are present in this area outside the refuges. No more than eight percent of this population may be taken during the season.
2. Harvest season - The open season shall run for a 30-day period beginning on September 9, 1976, and continue through October 8, 1976.

Size - No alligators under four feet in length may be taken.
3. Harvest methods - Alligators may



be taken only during the daylight hours, between one-half hour before official sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Special instructions will be issued to the holders of alligator hunter licenses shortly before the opening of the season describing detailed methods regarding the skinning of alligators. Skins processed contrary to the specific requirement of the Commission will be considered illegal. Pole hunting is prohibited to protect nesting female populations.

4. Licenses - An alligator hunter must have a valid commercial alligator hunter license to take, transport or sell alligators or their skins. The fee for the license is \$25.00 per year and is non-transferable. In order to obtain the license, he must reside in Louisiana for one year



preceding the season. He must complete application forms provided by the Commission and furnish proof that he owns the land or has an agreement with the landowner to hunt alligators on the specified property. Information as to the location and acreage of the property must be provided. Applications must be submitted between the dates of August 16 and September 8, 1976. The alligator hunter license will be issued only after the hunter has complied with the above requirements. A fur buyer license or fur dealer license is required for purchasing and handling raw alligator skins in Louisiana. Persons or firms entering alligators and/or parts in interstate commerce in the course of a commercial activity must be licensed



in accordance with State and Federal regulations.

5. Tagging - In addition to a valid commercial alligator hunting license, the hunter must also obtain from the Commission, and have in his possession while hunting, official tags which must be firmly attached to each alligator skin immediately upon taking. Numbered tags and tagging pliers will be issued to license holders for a sum of \$5.00. The tags must be attached in the last six inches of the tail. It shall be illegal to possess alligator skins in Louisiana without valid official tags attached. Official alligator tags will be issued only to alligator hunters, and farmers and only to those who have approved applications. The number of tags will be issued on



the basis of the area and quality of the habitat, and the rate per acre will be fixed based on extensive population estimates. Tags will be issued for alligator habitat only, based on final decision of the technician. No more than this fixed number of tags will be issued. Each official tag will bear a characteristic number and a duplicate tab, and the tag numbers issued to each hunter will be recorded. Unused tags must be returned to the Commission. Lost or stolen tags will not be replaced, but must be reported. Tags can be used only on the lands applied for and approved on the application.

6. Alligator Farmers and Breeders -
Licensed alligator farmers or breeders will be issued permits to kill and skin their alligators



but must follow the same rules and regulations which apply to wild alligators. No alligators on breeding farms may be killed without such a permit. Tagging validation is required on skins taken.

7. Harvest Rates - Maximum of eight percent of overall population in open season area may be taken. Tags will be issued on the following basis. Cameron and Calcasieu Parishes - Brackish Marsh, one per 400 acres; Intermediate and Fresh Marsh, one per 125 acres; Pump-off Districts - regardless of marsh type - one per 500 acres. Vermilion Parish - Intermediate Marsh, one per 100 acres; Fresh, one per 500 acres; Brackish marsh, one per 150 acres; Pump-off District, one per 500 acres.
8. Validation of alligator skins - All alligator skins taken during



the experimental alligator season shall be checked and a second tag fixed by personnel of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission at the headquarters of the Rockefeller Refuge on October 11, 12, 13, 1976. The holders of alligator hunting licenses must bring their skins to Rockefeller for validation on one of these three dates between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. Special skinning instructions will be verified, and any skins not prepared according to instructions issued in advance of season will be considered illegal. Unused tags will be returned at this time. Validation tags must remain attached to the skin in Louisiana.

9. Shipment - All raw alligator skins shipped out-of-state must bear official shipping tags provided by the Commission. Forms provided



must be filled out completely and returned to the Commission within 15 days following the close of each season. No raw alligator skins may be shipped from the state after 60 days following the close of each season without first obtaining a permit from the Commission. Raw alligator skins transported in the course of a commercial activity, shipped or transported within the state must be labeled with tags issued by the Commission describing the number of skins, the consignor, shipping point, consignee and destination. All parts of alligators, other than the raw skins, shipped or transported within or out of the state must be clearly labeled with the license number of the alligator hunter and the number of the



official tag which was attached to the alligator skin.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the administrative responsibility for conducting this season shall rest with J. Burton Angelle, Director of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission.

THE CHAIRMAN: Marc, you wanted to state a motion?

MR. DUPUY: Yes, Mr. Chairman. If the procedure outlined by Allan is the proper and correct procedure, then I would like to move that we request the Governor to take appropriate steps to put into motion the beginning of the deregulation of the alligator in the other parishes that are named in this concurrent resolution.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the motion. Do I have a second?

MR. LUTTRELL: I will second it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Luttrell. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.



THE CHAIRMAN: None opposed, so ordered.

(The full text of the
resolution is here made
a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the alligator
population in the coastal portions
of Louisiana has increased as a result
of rigid law enforcement protection to
a level beyond that considered as
endangered or threatened, and

WHEREAS, this overpopulation
can be reduced only through wise wild-
life management practices, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild
Life and Fisheries Commission has suc-
cessfully established procedures by
which alligators can be harvested on
a sustained yield basis,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
that the Louisiana Wild Life and
Fisheries Commission does hereby
request the Governor's Office to
petition the U. S. Department of the



Interior to remove the American alligator from the threatened and endangered categories in the following portion of Louisiana:

Beginning at the mouth of the Pearl River which serves as the boundary line of the State of Mississippi and Louisiana northward along the state line to Interstate Highway 10; westward along Interstate Highway 10 to the junction of Interstate Highway 12; westward along Interstate 12 to the incorporated city limits of Baton Rouge; northwestward along the incorporated city limits of Baton Rouge to the Mississippi River to the point where Highway 190 crosses; westward along Highway 190 to Ragley, Louisiana; westward along Louisiana Highway 12 to the Calcasieu Parish line;



westward along the parish line to the Sabine River and boundary line between Texas and Louisiana and south along this line to the Gulf of Mexico. This will include portions or all of the following parishes: Acadia, Allen, Ascension, Assumption, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, East Baton Rouge, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, Lafourche, Livingston, Orleans, Plaquemines, Pointe Coupee, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Vermilion and West Baton Rouge.

MR. ENSMINGER: Now, Mr. Chairman, this alligator subject seems to be going on and on but there is probably a third resolution that it would be well for the Commission to adopt at this time, and this addresses itself to the International



Trade Convention Treaty which governs endangered species of wildlife and fauna.

This was a convention that was entered into in March of 1973 by the United States and some 89 participating countries. However, just recently has the eleventh country ratified this International Treaty, which makes it a binding treaty upon all of the countries that signed. The United States signed the treaty about a year and a half ago, but recently Canada made the eleventh country to enter into the treaty, so this in effect makes the treaty binding upon all the countries that signed it originally.

The American alligator was listed on Appendix I of the animals in this international treaty. Under that particular appendix, animals cannot be shipped or exported or imported in international trade. The convention will reconvene in November of 1976 in Switzerland. At that time the United States government should request that the American alligator be moved to Appendix II of the International Trade Convention, which would then again permit under export-import permit



systems the exporting of American alligator skins into international trade.

As all of you are aware, in the 1973 alligator season in Cameron Parish, we received upwards of \$14 a foot for American alligator skins. In the 1975 season when there was only American industry available to buy the skins, we received an average price of \$7.88 a foot. The American fashion industry does not prefer large scale alligator skins. The European fashion industry does prefer the big skins and consequently they pay a much higher price, a very premium price for big alligator skins.

So, it would be very wise for the United States to get the alligator moved onto the appendix where it would stimulate a more commercial aspect of the alligator. The animal is certainly a commercial animal. By no stretch of the imagination is he a game animal, even though a few people do want to hunt them for trophies. So the animal should be used to its maximum potential for commercial animal and we would like to request that the Governor again write a separate letter



requesting that the United States government make every effort to try and have the American alligator removed from Appendix I of the International Trade Convention Treaty.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard Mr. Ensminger's recommendation.

MR. THOMPSON: Let me ask you something. One thing I didn't quite understand. There are 89 countries that have signed up and we have just had eleven of them ratify it, which means what, it takes so many for it to become law?

MR. ENSMINGER: Yes, Jimmie. The treaty itself required that more than ten nations ratify the International Convention. There were 89 countries that attended the convention. At the present time there may have been one or two additional countries, but some month and a half ago or two months ago the eleventh country finally had ratified the International Convention.

MR. THOMPSON: Which means then ten countries have to vote to change it from I to II?

MR. ENSMINGER: You have to have a two-thirds majority of the signing nations.



MR. THOMPSON: Of the 89?

MR. ENSMINGER: That's right. And I might add additionally here, Ted Joanen recently went to Australia to attend the IUCN meeting, which is the international convention of scientists that more or less are the scientific community that will advise the international treaty group. At that meeting in Australia, they passed a resolution of the IUCN group, unanimously supporting the delisting of the American alligator from Appendix I to Appendix II. So, we do have the support of the scientific community of the world to uphold our request if we can get the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the appropriate agency of the United States -- it may be the State Department that represents the United States at this first convention -- but whatever agency of our government represents us at this thing should request that the animal be delisted.

MR. THOMPSON: Well, I am extremely disappointed because when those two federal boys appeared and talked to us -- what was that, two years ago? Or was it one year? Two years ago



we requested then that they start by mail, by letter, polling the nine or ten countries that were signed up at that time, to delist and move it over to Appendix II, and it hasn't been done. I am most disappointed in them that they haven't followed through. In other words, it seems to me like now we are just starting all over again.

But I would like to point out one other thing, too, to give you a for-instance because of the market. A 12-foot alligator at \$4, roughly \$4 a foot, and that's what they brought, would bring \$48 last year where a seven-foot alligator at approximately \$8 a foot, which is almost half the size, brought \$56. So this is an inequity in the marsh; this causes the people to catch the young, breeding 'gators, the females, which are all under seven-foot, and it also leaves the bull 'gators which are of course cannibalistic and will even eat a seven-foot female alligator. It is all out of kilter, so it is most important that it be done, so I make the motion.

MR. WILLE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Motion made by Mr.



Thompson, seconded by Mr. Wille. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing no opposition, so ordered.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the United States entered into an International Trade Convention Treaty known as the International Trade Convention Treaty in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, and

WHEREAS, this Treaty lists the American alligator on Appendix I, and

WHEREAS, animals listed on this Appendix cannot be exported from the United States in International Trade, and

WHEREAS, this prohibition has severely depressed the monetary value of alligator skins harvested from the



Louisiana coastal marshes,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby request that the Governor's Office contact the appropriate officials in the U. S. Department of Interior and the U. S. Department of State and make a formal request that action be taken to request that the alligator be moved from Appendix I to Appendix II of the International Trade Convention Treaty in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora so that legally taken alligator skins can be offered for sale in international trade and that export and import permits be issued for this purpose.

MR. ENSMINGER: The next item I have for your consideration is a request from Amoco Production Company for a well location on Rockefeller Refuge. As you will recall, a couple of months ago the Commission took under consideration a geophysical request from Amoco to evaluate one



of their existing leases on Rockefeller. They conducted their geophysical program and have come up with a new location on our State Lease 4080 in one of the impoundments on Rockefeller, and this will involve the extension of an existing roadway on the Refuge some 410 feet.

In view of the fact that they are drilling the well off of a road system and the extension of an existing roadway, I would recommend that the Commission authorize the construction of this road for the drilling site.

MR. WILLE: I will move it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Wille.

MR. DUPUY: 410 feet?

MR. ENSMINGER: Yes.

MR. DUPUY: And off an existing road?

MR. ENSMINGER: Yes, it is to run off an existing roadway.

MR. DUPUY: I will second it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Dupuy.

All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?



(No response)

THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing none, so ordered.

(The full text of the
resolution is here made
a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild
Life and Fisheries Commission has
received a request from Amoco Production
Company to construct an access road on
State Lease 4080, Well No. 5 on the
Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge in Cameron
Parish, and

WHEREAS, this work can be
performed without adversely affecting
the Refuge,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fish-
eries Commission does hereby grant
permission to Amoco Production Company
to construct an access road on State
Lease 4080 to service their Well No. 5.
This road shall be constructed in the
manner as set forth in Amoco's original



lease and in the best construction procedure compatible with wildlife management practices, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director is hereby authorized to sign all documents pertaining to this matter.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Yancey, you can just sit there and handle this.

MR. YANCEY: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, last year the Commission purchased 3,000 acres of bottomland hardwoods up in Ouachita Parish and established the Ouachita Wildlife Management Area. At the time the Commission purchased that property it also acquired 100 percent of the mineral rights.

The Mineral Board has received an application to nominate two tracts actually occupying all 3,000 acres for a mineral lease bid and of course they would like to have the concurrence of the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission before advertising these two tracts. One of them would be 2,400 acres, the other would



be 600 acres.

We would recommend that you approve of the advertisement of these two tracts for bids through the Mineral Board and also that you adopt the same rules and regulations that would control the mineral operations on that area that we are using now on the Russell Sage Game Management Area.

MR. DUPUY: I so move, Mr. Chairman, in separate motions, because there are two items on the agenda. Items 9 and 12.

MR. LUTTRELL: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Dupuy, seconded by Mr. Luttrell. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: You need another motion, Marc, on No. 12?

MR. DUPUY: I made separate motions for each one of the two items, covering both items.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the Mineral Board
by letter dated July 6, 1976 has



advised that two tracts have been nominated for lease in the Commission-owned Ouachita Wildlife Management Area in Ouachita Parish,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby approve of the Mineral Board advertising for bids covering the two tracts on the Ouachita Wildlife Management Area, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that appropriate rules and regulations be made a part of any leases that may be issued to insure against any damages or any interference with the Commission's wildlife management area program.

(The rules and regulations hereinabove referred to are here made a part of the record.)

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR OUACHITA WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, LOCATED IN OUACHITA PARISH.



Specific regulations to be incorporated in all mineral leases:

1. Entry into the area for drilling and production operations shall, as far as practicable, be by road, location approved in advance by the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission. A minimum amount of lines and all permanent superstructure shall be used and tank batteries shall be so located and maintained as to avoid pollution of streams and other portions of the leased premises and none of the above construction work shall be done without first submitting plans for the construction of roads, pipelines, tank batteries, salt water disposal systems and other permanent installations to the State Mineral Board and the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, for approval, rejection or modification, and all construction plans will be presented to the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission and other approving parties for study for



a minimum of fifteen (15) days prior to approval date. Special precautions in developing access to drilling sites in areas already intensively improved for wild life may be required as mutually agreed upon by the mineral lessee and the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission. No such construction will be approved that is likely to permit water pollution.

2. All roads constructed into drilling sites shall be graveled, right-of-ways and site locations shall be cleared of all timber -- no windrowing. Any damage to existing roads, etc. will be repaired. All roads constructed to drilling sites or producing wells shall be used as access for public hunters.
3. Levees and fire guards shall be so constructed around tank batteries, separators, and boilers as to decrease fire hazards and to prevent water pollution, and wherever practical, such levees and fire guards shall be bonded to the base after the



removal of the vegetation and by means of a core trench.

4. To prevent pollution all salt water shall be reinjected into subsurface formations. In situations where it is not deemed practical to do this the State Mineral Board and the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission shall be advised and its approval obtained of such other methods of disposal as shall prevent pollution.
5. Flares shall be burned only when necessary and all flares that are burned shall be flared in a burning pit. In situations where it is deemed necessary to burn flares, the State Mineral Board and the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall be advised and their approval obtained.
6. All permanent structures placed on the leased premises shall be so constructed as to create minimum fire hazards and so as to result in avoidance of pollution of water bottoms and other portions of the leased premises and minimum disturbance or harm to the game and



wildlife inhabiting said area.

7. Lessees shall comply with all current rules and regulations of the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission for the protection of game and wildlife, and particularly, no hunting, fishing or any other activities harmful or destructive to game or wildlife shall be permitted on the leased premises or any other part of said game preserve. Upon completion of drilling operations no loud noise-making machinery will be used in carrying out production operations.
8. All drilling and producing operations shall be conducted under the strict supervision of the State Mineral Board and the Department of Conservation and shall be subject to the prevailing laws, rules and regulations of the Department of Conservation.

SPECIFIC REGULATIONS TO BE INCORPORATED
IN ALL SEISMOGRAPH OPERATIONS:

Seismograph will not be conducted during the hunting season.

The Company will pay for all timber and



surface damages caused by their crews or other designated crews.

All road damages will be paid for or repaired by the Company.

Seismic crews will notify the Russell Sage Area Supervisor two days prior to any seismic operations.

No seismic shot points shall be within one-half mile of the existing 14-inch water wells within the green tree waterfowl impoundment.

No firearms by any crew or any personnel connected with the seismic operations.

No intoxicating liquors shall be allowed on the property and also no gambling on the property.

No unauthorized trespassing of any kind.

A Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission agent shall be assigned to any project and be on the job at all times. This seismic agent's name will be submitted to the district office prior to the operations. His salary will be reimbursed



by the oil company to the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission.

MR. YANCEY: The Justiss Mears Oil Company holds a lease on the Russell Sage Wildlife Management Area in Ouachita Parish, and they would like to go on their lease and drill a well. The well location is immediately adjacent to the Commission's existing gravel road that runs down through the property, which would mean that they would need to use about three miles of that gravel road in order to gain access to the drilling site and also conduct their normal operations in putting the well location in.

We would recommend that the Commission approve of Justiss Mears proceeding with the drilling of that well provided that they agree to comply with all of the rules and regulations that are set forth in their lease as well as agreeing to spread about three inches of gravel the entire three-mile length of this road for a width of about 16 feet, and that they also agree to keep the drilling site clean of any trash at all times, maintain the road and in the event



they have a dry hole, then that they would remove all trash and other debris from the site and return the site to its original condition.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the recommendation.

MR. THOMPSON: So move.

MR. WILLE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Wille. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing no opposition, so ordered.

(The full text of the
resolution is here made
a part of the record.)

WHEREAS Justiss Mears Oil
Company proposes to drill a well in
the SE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section 30,
T 17 N, R 5 E, on State Lease 6842, and

WHEREAS Justiss Mears proposes
to gain access to the drilling site by
utilizing the Commission's gravel road
extending southward from Interstate 20, and



WHEREAS, the use of the road by Justiss Mears will bring about substantial additional maintenance problems,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby approve of Justiss Mears drilling the well at the proposed location provided it is agreed by Justiss Mears that it will spread gravel to a thickness of three (3) inches and sixteen (16) feet in width the length of the gravel road southward to the drilling site prior to beginning operations and that the Company will grade this road periodically and as necessary to maintain its condition equal to that present at the time of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in clearing the drilling site no windrows of trees will be left around the drilling site, further that a gravel road with culvert, rather than a board



road, will be constructed leading off the Commission's road to the drilling site and no debris or litter will be left around the site. In the event the drilling site is abandoned, the surface will be leveled to original ground elevations, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all other rules and regulations as set forth in the lease will be complied with and that copies of this resolution will be forwarded to Justiss Mears Oil Company and the State Mineral Board.

MR. YANCEY: One other item on the agenda pertains to the Rockefeller Refuge. The Mineral Board has advanced a proposal that geophysical operations be conducted along the shoreline of southwest Louisiana, generally from Sabine Pass over to Southwest Pass, with north/south seismic lines being run for a distance of two miles inshore and a distance of two miles offshore at two-mile intervals up and down the shoreline there.



They feel that this will provide information that would be useful in future oil and gas operations in that part of the state, and they are proposing that the Commission consider granting Aquatronics a permit to go on Rockefeller Refuge, at least the lower extremity of Rockefeller Refuge, in order to conduct these seismic operations.

This would involve, generally speaking, about eight shot points per mile, and the shot lines would run two miles northward from the beach along the south shore of Rockefeller Refuge.

Of course, we all know in the past all seismograph operations or authorizations on Rockefeller have always been sold to the highest bidder through the Mineral Board after bids were solicited through the regular advertising channels. This would differ somewhat from the procedure, considerably from the procedure that has been used in the past, but basically this is the proposal, and the Mineral Board would like to have the views of our Commission before going forward with this program.



THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Dupuy, if you will comment on this at this time; we met with the Mineral Board last week, as Mr. Yancey said, and Mr. Dupuy was on that committee at the time, and we asked him to contact the Attorney General's office and get us a ruling. Go ahead, Marc.

MR. DUPUY: Mr. Chairman, the Attorney General's office has prepared and doesn't have for us to read this morning but will have in the next few days an opinion, saying that there will be no violation of the deed of donation if the proposed seismic work is conducted.

However, quite aside from the Attorney General's opinion, because of the past policies and procedures, I think it might be wise for us to ask the Mineral Board to have sealed bidding for that purpose.

MR. WILLE: To include in that, we can also state in the bid, or request for bid, that copy be furnished the Mineral Board, and that the minimum bid we will accept will be \$1,000 a mile or \$125 per shot, whichever is greater.

MR. DUPUY: Yes, I think that is



appropriate.

I would so move that we ask the Mineral Board to advertise for sealed competitive bidding with a minimum of \$1,000 per mile or \$125 per shot point, whichever is the greater, insofar as Rockefeller Refuge is concerned.

MR. YANCEY: Would this be conditioned upon the provision that they receive an application from Aquatronics or some other similar --

MR. WILLE: Dick, in the past that has been --

MR. YANCEY: It would have to be because I don't think the Mineral Board would advertise anything unless they had a valid application submitted to them with a check of about \$200 to cover the cost of the advertising. That is the usual procedure.

MR. WILLE: I think the man from Aquatronics yesterday agreed that they were going to make application on the thing.

MR. YANCEY: I didn't really get that impression. He talked to Ensminger following our discussion yesterday afternoon, and they may or



may not apply, so I think you would want to put into your resolution the fact that that would be conditioned upon receipt of application for that.

MR. DUPUY: I was assuming that they had -- I know that there has been an application and in view of the request for sealed bidding, there may not be, but if there is, then we should proceed in that direction.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the motion by Mr. Dupuy. Do I have a second?

MR. THOMPSON: I would like to amend the motion or ask Marc to amend it to include the furnishing of the Mineral Board with a copy.

MR. DUPUY: Of the information?

MR. THOMPSON: Yes.

MR. DUPUY: Yes, that would be in keeping with the application, I believe.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is your original motion?

MR. DUPUY: Yes, sir.

MR. WILLE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Wille.

All in favor say aye.



IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

THE CHAIRMAN: That takes care of all your business?

MR. YANCEY: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: Who is taking Joe Herring's place this morning?

MR. YANCEY: We have Jerry Farrer, a biologist in the Game Division, that will handle Mr. Herring's business on the agenda. They had asked that I start off on the season recommendations for the setting of dates for migratory birds.

We have been given the tentative framework, bag limits and season lengths by the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service. There are several representatives of the press here, so we would like to emphasize that these dates that the Commission is getting ready to act are strictly tentative. There is a remote chance that they might have to be changed. The Service has to leave these announced dates open for public comment for about



15 days and in the event that there would be some overwhelming evidence submitted to them that some change had to be made, then such a change could be made, but the dates that the Commission is about to set are tentative. I see we have Mike Cook, Rich Gresham and some of the other news media people here in the audience.

The proposed dates on the dove season are basically this. Generally speaking, they are similar to what we had last year. They have offered 70 days of dove hunting with bag limits, daily bag limit of 12. The proposed dove season dates for Louisiana as recommended to the Commission are as follows:

In the North Zone of Louisiana, which lies above Interstate 10 and 12, it is proposed that the dove season be split into three segments, with the first segment extending from September 4 through the 19th for 16 days, the second segment extending from October 16 through November 14 for 30 days, the third segment, December 18 to January 10 for 24 days.

In the South Zone the dove season would



be split into two segments of those 70 days, the first segment beginning October 16 and extending through November 28, the second segment beginning December 18 and extending through January 12.

Now, shooting hours will be as they have been in the past, beginning at 12:00 Noon and extending through sunset of each day during the season.

The Zone line again is I-10 from the Texas state line to Baton Rouge, and I-12 from Baton Rouge to Slidell, and I-10 from Slidell to the Mississippi state line. That interstate highway system separates the south zone in the Louisiana from the north zone.

Now, last year a survey was made by the Commission to determine what the kill of doves in Louisiana was during the '75-'76 season. Jerry, do you want to go up to the chart here. This chart shows the distribution of the dove harvest in the state last season by regions of the state. The blue figures at the top in each area represent the kill in the September season. For example, in northwest Louisiana and in northeast Louisiana



the kill was 111,000 and 154,000, respectively, in those two September segments of the dove season last fall. In the October-November segment, the kill was 49,000 in the northwest, 57,000 in the northeast, and the last December-January segment last year it was 27,000 in northwest, 33,000 in northeast. So, you can see the preponderance of the dove kill last year in the northern part of the state took place in the September segment of the three-way split dove season. In the southern part of the state you will see that the kill was broken up into two segments. The October-November segment was 176,000 doves taken, 123,000 in the December-January segment.

So, there is a considerable difference in the dove harvest by segment of the dove season and by region of the season, and of course this is the type information that is used in formulating the recommendations for the dove season for the '76-'77 season. We thought that those figures would be of interest to all the members of the Commission.

MR. DUPUY: Dick, before you go on and



while we are on the subject of statistics, I believe that the total kill in the early split, September 6 to 21 of last year, for instance, is a little bit misleading in the respect that I feel the great abundance of birds are killed on the first weekend and that having a 16-day split, a 16-day first season, is pretty much wasting days toward the end of that first season, and I would like to ask the staff this year to attempt to break down in its statistics the kill during the first split, the September season of September 4th to the 19th, and see if we can't come up with some sort of statistics with regard to how many are killed the first weekend, or the percentage killed the first weekend, the second weekend and let's say the last few days of that season, because I think maybe we are wasting a few days towards the end of the 19th of September that we might be able to use perhaps after the 10th of January. If we could have a little bit better statistical information we would maybe be able to better use our days next year.

MR. YANCEY: These figures, of course,



111,000, 154,000, that covers the entire September segment of last fall's dove season. We don't have a breakdown on the time within that 16-day period in which these doves were taken. That's what you want.

MR. DUPUY: Yes, next year.

MR. YANCEY: If possible, we will see if we can break that down a little bit better to give us a breakdown on what the kill say the first half of the September segment would be as compared to the second half of the September segment. I think that is what you are aiming at. I don't know whether it is possible or not but we'll have our people take a look at it and see if they can do that.

MR. DUPUY: In thirds or halves or however best it can be done.

Mr. Chairman, do you want a separate motion on the fixing of the dove season?

THE CHAIRMAN: I think we might as well have one. What do you think, Dick?

MR. YANCEY: I think it would be desirable in the event there is any discussion on one



of the other seasons.

MR. WILLE: So move.

MR. LUTTRELL: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Wille and seconded by Mr. Luttrell. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

So ordered.

MR. YANCEY: For the hunting of rails, the proposal is that the season would run for 70 days beginning November 6 and extending through January 14. This is basically the same type of season we had last year. We would recommend the Commission approve of these dates.

MR. LUTTRELL: I so move.

MR. THOMPSON: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Luttrell, seconded by Mr. Thompson. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: All opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.



MR. YANCEY: For the hunting of gallinules, the recommendation is to begin the season on September 18, which would be concurrent with the start of the teal season, and run through November 26 for a 70-day season.

MR. LUTTRELL: I so move.

MR. THOMPSON: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved and seconded. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposition?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

MR. YANCEY: The proposal on the woodcock season would be to have a 65-day season beginning December 4 and extending through February 6.

MR. LUTTRELL: I so move.

MR. THOMPSON: Second.

MR. DUPUY: Do you have a change on the woodcock. I thought you said February 6.

MR. YANCEY: The proposal --

MR. DUPUY: Is it February 28 on woodcock?



MR. YANCEY: No, that's the framework; the framework within which you set the dates on woodcock season would be September 1 to February 28, and the proposed dates for the woodcock season would be December 4 to February 6 for 65 days. It would be shortly after the quail season opens and shortly before it closes. I wish we could get a few more days of woodcock hunting, but 65 days is as far as we have been able to go.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved and seconded. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

MR. YANCEY: We are allowed 107 days of snipe hunting this year.

THE CHAIRMAN: 170 or 107?

MR. YANCEY: 107 days of snipe hunting as compared to about 60 days of snipe hunting in the past. This represents considerable addition in number of hunting days for snipe. The proposed recommendation here would be to begin the



snipe season November 6 and close on February 20, 1977.

MR. DUPUY: I so move, Mr. Chairman.

MR. LUTTRELL: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Dupuy, seconded by Mr. Luttrell. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

MR. DUPUY: I would like also to commend the staff for their efforts in getting the additional days. I think that is a very wise move.

MR. YANCEY: These birds are very lightly hunted in the state. The kill makes up only a very minor percentage of the total population and we feel certain that this is going to offer some good opportunity for the hunters to take advantage of snipe hunting in Louisiana. We have a large population but they are hunted very lightly.

MR. DUPUY: Your statistics don't show the number of birds shot at as compared to those



killed!

MR. YANCEY: That's right.

MR. THOMPSON: Shot at; they can't hit them! You notice I said "they" can't hit them! Me, either!

MR. YANCEY: We are allowed, the teal season again this year, to extend for nine days during the month of September. The proposal is that the season be started on Saturday, September 18, and extend through Sunday, September 26. The bag limit would be four, possession limit eight, shooting hours sunrise to sunset.

THE CHAIRMAN: Let me ask you this, Dick. What are the legal shooting hours on all the other game we have approved above, the part from doves down through teal?

MR. YANCEY: The legal shooting hours are sunset closures on all migratory birds, sunrise to sunset generally; during the waterfowl season we get 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset. Now on resident game here in Louisiana it has been 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset. We just got a bill through the legislature that will legalize



the shooting of resident game till 30 minutes after sunset, which is prime time for hunting deer and other quadrupeds. There is a difference in shooting hours on some of these game birds and animals. Some of them close at sunset, others run until 30 minutes after sunset.

THE CHAIRMAN: Should we go down this list, just for the public's knowledge, and let you state each one, like the doves on down through the teal, and give the time shooting framework on that.

MR. YANCEY: O. K. I gave the time on dove shooting hours; it is 12:00 Noon until sunset. All the other shooting hours run from sunrise to sunset.

MR. THOMPSON: Wait a minute. Gallinules, rails, woodcock -- sunrise to sunset.

MR. YANCEY: Jerry, do you have on gallinules, do you have the federal information on that? They establish these shooting hours. We had better check on rails and verify this business on sunrise.

O. K. it does differ. On rails, a half



hour before sunrise to sunset.

MR. ENSMINGER: Richard, this is a real problem on gallinules during that teal season, getting a guy in the marsh 30 minutes before the teal season starts.

MR. YANCEY: All right, let's go down the list here as Mr. Berry suggested. I gave it on rails and doves. On snipe it is a half hour before sunrise to sunset. On gallinules, a half hour before sunrise to sunset. Half hour before. On the teal season now it is sunrise to sunset. Woodcock is a half hour before sunrise to sunset.

If everybody is totally confused now --

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, sir, and I am sure the public will be, too.

MR. YANCEY: Teal and doves, everything except teal and doves, is half hour before sunrise to sunset. Teal is sunrise to sunset, doves, it's noon to sunset, 12:00 Noon to sunset. Some of these things change from year to year also.

MR. THOMPSON: Not that teal; it doesn't change.

THE CHAIRMAN: Looks like some of that



federal treachery to me.

MR. THOMPSON: It's federal treachery; it's worse than that.

MR. DUPUY: Did we vote on the teal?

THE CHAIRMAN: No, we have not. I need a motion.

MR. DUPUY: I move.

MR. LUTTRELL: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Dupuy, seconded by Mr. Luttrell. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

MR. YANCEY: We will call on Jerry Farrer now to proceed with the recommendations on the hunting of resident game.

MR. FARRER: Mr. Chairman, the season proposals for the 1976-77 hunting season are very basically similar to those of last year. In the interest of expediency, we will just go through these changes, with the permission of the Commission, noting the major changes in each section of



the rather lengthy document that we have provided to you here.

As in the past, the quail season opens Thanksgiving, November 25, through February 28; bag limit of 10, possession limit of 20.

Rabbit, scheduled for October 2 through February 28; daily bag limit 8, possession limit 16

Squirrel, October 2 through January 9; daily bag limit 8, possession limit 16.

Bear is in the same general area that was last year scheduled, October 16 through October 24; one per day, one per season.

Deer, one per day, six per season, with varying opening and closing dates according to hunting conditions and herd conditions, history and herd conditions, as in the past.

Turkey, daily bag limit of one, season limit of three, gobblers only. The same rules and regulations as to dogs, baiting, handguns and rifles prohibited as in the past.

The same provisions apply as in the past for raccoon and opossum.

Crows, the same provisions apply to



those.

Archery season, March 1, a notable change from last year's proposals and the season held last year. Archery season is scheduled to begin October 2, with the closing date closing with the last day of gun season in each respective season area. This will put archery seasons closing at various times. We have five season areas. The archery season is scheduled to close with the end of the gun season in each area.

In Area 1 the archery season will close on January 16. In Area 2 it will close on January 2. This includes Wildlife Management Areas within those specific season areas.

In the past the archery season remained open statewide until it was closed concurrent with the closing of the last gun season that was to occur in the state. Last year it closed around the 16th. It stayed open until around the 16th in all the other sections.

The season areas scheduled for the state are the same except one small change in boundary in Catahoula Parish. This was at the request of



the sportsmen and the policy jury, to shift some territory from Area 1 into Area 2. This makes the boundary more easily definable and is more suitable to the people that hunt in this area.

The seasons generally follow the same outline, the seasons as proposed. We are proposing a three-segment season as in the past. The first segment is some form of still hunt. The second segments are universally opened on November 26 this time, as opposed to a prior Thanksgiving opening for the past few years. Due to the efforts by the Commission to open these seasons on a weekend in order to preserve somewhere around the same length of season, the calendar through the years has marched us steadily forward into November and this year represents a break from this, trying to get our season back to where it was and shifting the entire season through these segments back somewhat.

In Area 1 there is a change in the recommending the increase from four to nine days this year, the first segment still hunt. The second segment season opens November 26 and runs



through December 12 in Area 1. The third segment -- this is with or without dogs, beginning the second segment, as is with or without dogs for the third segment -- the season dates are December 18 through January 16 for the third segment.

Areas 2 and 3 have the same season. Again they are the latest shift in opening dates. The first segment is for still hunting only. There has been a slight reduction in the number of days from last year. Scheduled to open November 6, again for the same reason as outlined before. Segment 2, which is scheduled with or without dogs, opens as Area 1 does on November 26, keeping in the tradition of the same opening dates for each area whenever possible. Segment 3 in Area 2 is for 16 days. It closes on January 2, however, keeping the tradition of earlier closure in the hill areas. In the hill areas the biology of the deer is somewhat earlier than in the late areas, and you actually have an antler shed in some cases in late December. When a guy kills his deer and starts to load him, his antlers come off. Traditionally the people have preferred an earlier



closing date.

Areas 4 and 5 have the same boundaries and generally the same season set up as the other areas discussed. Area 5 has traditionally been a still hunt area and we have kept it this way this year in our recommendations.

The major change, we think a constructive change, that has come about this year in proposals is with either sex hunting. I will turn the map around. This represents considerable effort to get some continuity in the either sex hunting season. In the past there has been some confusion as to boundaries, the number of days allowed and so forth. This is an effort to clarify these. Areas that had very similar seasons and when they were closely located were given the same season this year. This didn't represent any great changes, really. I think perhaps West Baton Rouge and Avoyelles received some either sex hunting where they had not in the past and it actually resulted in a reduction of either sex hunting in some areas, the most notable examples being Tensas, Madison and Concordia. We think this will be



better accepted by the sportsmen, easier understood, and of course will fit well in the management of deer in the state.

The bear season, as I mentioned before, is again a nine-day season, October 16 through 24, and exactly the same area as last year.

All other aspects of the season are the same as last year.

I am going to switch maps here for turkey. The turkey season again has a considerable change which we think is for the better. Turkeys have been restocked in the state in various locations. It has done quite well in most areas and in the last few years we saw almost a constant expansion of new territory being opened to hunters as the flocks increased and could safely be hunted.

This year, with the cooperative efforts of three districts, a considerable amount of new territory has been opened. In doing so it filled in the gaps and swallowed up last year's Areas A, F, G and J, which is now pictured in Area A.

The general opening and closing dates for turkey season and the amount of time allowed



for turkey hunting is basically the same, one exception being Area D, which has been moved slightly earlier, opening date.

The Wildlife Management Areas, which we will consider next, have had some change, although basically keeping the same pattern. We have asked for the exclusion of drag seines in all Wildlife Management Areas to commercial fishermen, with the exception of minnow seines.

There has been a considerable expansion on all the Game Management Areas for small game. Small game hunting has no detrimental hunting effect on the areas and we have expanded the small game seasons. Most all areas that have squirrel and rabbit have an additional late squirrel and rabbit season this year, generally beginning December 4 and extending through the 17th. Some had to begin on the 6th, due to conflict of seasons but we think this is a step forward.

Also, there is the full quail, woodcock and snipe season, where applicable, have been allowed on these management areas.

In addition, additional bucks only



hunting seasons for deer have been allowed on most all of them.

One major change is that waterfowl hunting has been limited to a half-day this year on all Wildlife Management Areas. Studies show that we can keep the birds longer and provide better hunting and more satisfactory hunting with one-half day shooting.

Specific changes in specific Management Areas, I will just kind of brush through here, provisions for archery hunting have been extended to Point-Au-Chien and Salvador. Formerly archery hunting had been restricted on these areas.

There has been a reduction proposed in the either sex deer seasons for Catahoula Wildlife Management Area. We recommended a reduction from five days to three days. Loggy Bayou Wildlife Management Area in the northwestern part of the state, which was formerly an archery only area, is again this year scheduled for a gun hunt. Last year it received a two-day bucks only gun hunt. This year it is scheduled for ten days, bucks only gun hunt.



The new areas of Ouachita and Pomme de Terre have been given seasons concurrent with the outside in order to establish a season on them. As boundary marking and development gets under way, there will be more intensive management on these areas, but this year these areas have been provided for in our regulations.

On the Jackson-Bienville Wildlife Management Area in Jackson and Bienville Parishes, which has been the area for the last five years with an experimental either sex season, they have had 25 days there for the last five years. Analysis of data and a look at our data gathered shows that perhaps it would be in the better interest at this season to reduce the deer season to ten days and it is so recommended this year.

In addition to the changes mentioned this year for the Wildlife Management Areas, we are proposing a season for muzzleloading firearms. The proposals are for a season on weekends, December 4 through 5th and December 18 through 19th, on Lutchter-Moore, Sabine, Alexandria Forest, and Spring Bayou Wildlife Management Areas.



This concludes the changes in this year's proposals as compared to last year's, Mr. Chairman. If there is any specific area you would like to go into, we can discuss that.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does anybody wish to be heard? Anybody got any comments on it? Mr. McGovern, how are you doing? Glad to have you with us. Would you like to make any comments on this? I didn't see you.

MR. JAMES D. McGOVERN, JR.: No, I think we are fairly well satisfied.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does anybody in the press need any clarification of anything they want?

MR. McGOVERN: It has been requested that I put that officially on the tape!

At the request of one of my old friends, Allan Ensminger, the Louisiana Wildlife Federation is very satisfied with the efforts made by this Commission to acknowledge the requests of the sportsmen. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Joe Herring must have messed up somewhere if they are completely satisfied! (Laughter)



MR. DUPUY: He hasn't done it perfectly. I recommend that in the either sex for deer section of the regulations that the parishes be listed alphabetically. It will make it easier reading.

Mr. Chairman, I move adoption of the recommendations.

MR. THOMPSON: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Dupuy, seconded by Mr. Thompson. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing no opposition, so ordered.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.

WHEREAS, recommendations as made by the Game Division and Deer Committee of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission have been presented, and

WHEREAS, these recommendations have been made with much work and



forethought put into their consolidation,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED
that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission accept these recommendations as made for the 1976-77 hunting season in Louisiana.

(Copy of the detailed
rules and regulations
as adopted above is
appended hereto and
made a part hereof.)

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Wille, I thought you were going to offer a motion this morning to make those little yellow pamphlets large enough to where a man could read it.

MR. WILLE: Yes, sir, I am going to make a motion and I am hoping I am going to get it seconded, that we print that pamphlet in a minimum this time of eight-point type and if we have to put it in a booklet form and print it on cheaper paper in order to take up the slack of what it has been costing -- I know that they said it might be



a little bit expensive if we had to do it that way -- but there is no sense in printing a bunch of regulations and seasons without folks being able to read it. I would like to make a motion that we do that.

MR. THOMPSON: You are showing your age, aren't you? (Laughter)

MR. WILLE: I am doing it for your benefit, Jimmie!

THE CHAIRMAN: Could I have a second to Mr. Wille's motion?

MR. THOMPSON: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Thompson. All in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

MR. LUTTRELL: But as a way of explanation, Jimmie Thompson doesn't really read that thing, he doesn't obey it, he just goes ahead and hunts!

MR. WILLE: Who ever said that Jimmie



Thompson could read?

THE CHAIRMAN: I will say this, Jimmie Thompson hunts around the world, and there is always a season open somewhere!

I know this is a little out of the ordinary, but I am going to call a recess at this time for about ten minutes. We will come back shortly.

(Whereupon, a brief recess was taken.)

AFTER THE RECESS:

THE CHAIRMAN: We will call the meeting back to order again, please.

MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a motion that we rescind the -- bear with me one moment; where is this on the agenda?

MR. DUPUY: No. 11.

MR. THOMPSON: Let me make a statement first that we have been in contact with the Mineral Board and at their request they have asked that we not advertise for bids at the present time on Item 11. This was put in the form of a motion I believe by Mr. Dupuy and seconded by someone over here, so I would like



to make a motion that we rescind our action on 11 on a temporary basis, at the request of the Mineral Board.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have a motion. Do I hear a second?

MR. LUTTRELL: I will second that.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Luttrell. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing no opposition, so ordered.

MR. DUPUY: Mr. Chairman, excuse me. We still have Items 15 and 16. I was wondering, I am going to have to leave in just a minute.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. We will set the date for the August meeting, August 16 and 17.

Dick, I believe you have the current legislation you wanted to report on.

MR. YANCEY: Mr. Chairman, of course as we all know, this is just a summation of the legislation that is pending in Baton Rouge at this time. About 70 bills were introduced that would affect Wild Life and Fisheries operations in Louisiana.



One of the most important, of course, is the reorganization bill, which has now passed the House. It has gone through the Senate Committee. It is awaiting Senate floor action. The Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission would remain as one of the major departments in the state, and we feel that this is probably the most important thing that has taken place up there. We have seen consolidation of wildlife and fisheries and other programs take place in other states and almost without exception that has weakened the wildlife and fisheries efforts in those states where consolidation has taken place. Here in Louisiana the legislature has recognized the importance of fish and wildlife management and has gone along or is going along with separate departmental status for Wild Life and Fisheries.

There has been a whole host of bills introduced pertaining to gill netting in coastal waters, the establishment of bag limits or creel limits on speckled trout and red fish and what-have-you. None of those bills has moved. They are still, either have been given unfavorable



reports or withdrawn, no action taken. They are still more or less being held in various committees in either the Senate or the House.

There was a bill that was introduced that would close hunting on the Catahoula Wildlife Management Area up in Grant and Winn Parishes for a period of two years. We have been very much concerned about that bill. There is going to be a committee hearing on it this afternoon at one o'clock and our Director is going to be on hand there to oppose the bill for many, many reasons.

The Commission package of bills, which included extending shooting hours on resident game to 30 minutes after sunset, setting up illegal possession penalties, the bill pertaining to the apportionment to Ducks Unlimited, all those have gone through in good shape and have been signed by the Governor.

There is a bill there that would legalize slat traps for taking commercial fish in the state on a statewide basis. This bill is not moving. There is a bill to legalize slat traps in LaSalle Parish and this bill has just about gone the route



of the legislature.

There are several bills pending up there that would exempt certain groups of people in Louisiana from having to buy hunting and fishing licenses. We have succeeded in killing one of those bills. Others are still pending in committee. We plan to oppose them because it would reduce badly needed revenue if various groups of people are exempt from buying hunting and fishing licenses in Louisiana, but a number of these bills are still pending in committee.

There is a universal fishing license bill that was introduced. There has still been no committee hearing on that bill.

There is a bill that is pretty well passed up there that would authorize the Commission to permit the taking of bait shrimp during closed season in coastal waters. Of course, this is of considerable importance to the sport fishermen and the people that sell bait shrimp, and the Commission has authorized this in the past under legislative resolution. Now you are authorized by statute to proceed with the allowing



of taking of bait shrimp in closed season in coastal waters.

Now, one bill of great importance is the bill that sets up the \$5 million trust fund for the State Wildlife Refuge in Vermilion Parish, a Commission bill. It has passed the house. Yesterday it passed the Senate Committee on Revenue and Fiscal Affairs. It will go on to the Senate for Senate floor action. We are not aware of any opposition to that bill. If it passes, it is probably going to mean somewhere around \$300,000 a year in revenue to the Commission once the \$5 million level of the trust fund has been reached. It calls for the State Treasurer to invest the \$5 million once it has been accumulated, with the income from the investment to be used to run the State Wildlife Refuge in perpetuity. If any money is left over, then it would be used for other operations of the Commission.

The capital outlay bill is still not moving at any great speed. This is a bill of great importance to the Commission in that we have got projects that call for financing in there,



boat ramps, land acquisition -- we have about \$4.5 million requested for land acquisition -- and we expect that bill to begin to move sometime this week.

There was one bill in there to eliminate the requirement that shotguns be plugged for hunting resident game. That bill was killed in the House Natural Resources Committee.

Generally I believe that summarizes most of the bills that I think everybody would be interested in.

There is one bill there that by local referendum would permit the running of swine on public or private lands in the state. This was of great concern to us because we spent tens of thousands of dollars fencing these animals off some of the Commission-owned Game Management Areas. By local referendum, if that bill passed, it would permit the placement of these animals back on these game management areas, and this would result in all sorts of problems with these animals competing with deer and turkey and squirrel and other forms of wildlife for food supplies on the game management



areas.

Mr. Angelle and I talked to the author of this bill, explained our serious reservations about the bill, and it hasn't moved since then. We don't know. We are just going to have to keep a watchful eye on it. Hopefully it won't pass.

MR. LUTTRELL: Dick, these animals are dreaded by the state and the federal forestry service. Are they helping on it?

MR. YANCEY: We are not aware of any position that they have taken on it. We have explained our position to the author of the bill and he listened very attentively and we hope that he won't move it.

MR. LUTTRELL: Well, they destroy a complete section of young pine, and anyone owning, as I do -- of course, I am selfish in it -- pine land that is not fenced would be destroyed by that type of bill. You may get a lot of help if you want it.

MR. YANCEY: If it looks like the bill moves, we may call for help there.

MR. DUPUY: Dick, you might just as a



matter of information, I won a case one time involving a hunting club, representing a hunting club, in which swine were coming onto the club area. We had only a barbed wire fence and posted signs of course and the hogs can't read and the hog owners don't know the difference anyway and don't care, but we won the case, saying that the hogs are trespassers and we would have the right to pick them up and dispose of them in accordance with the law. You do not have to have hog wire, I mean hog-proof fence.

MR. LUTTRELL: But if they pass this bill you will, or lose your pine timber completely.

THE CHAIRMAN: Years ago I was up in a little town, I was just a kid, and my brother and I were sitting on the courthouse steps. This old man -- he might have been 60 but it seems to us he was 100 -- walked by us, coming out of the courthouse. He tapped his walking cane on the steps and said, "I want to tell you two boys something, and don't you forget this. Wild hogs and kinfolks is poor damned property!"

Dick, do you want to comment on the



Flyway Council meeting you are going to attend?

MR. YANCEY: O. K. Just an announcement here. The Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission staff and perhaps some of the members will be in attendance at the forthcoming meeting of the Mississippi Flyway Council. It will be held in Duluth, Minnesota, on August 2 and 3. At that particular meeting the Council will function as a unit on all matters other than hunting regulations and in connection with the development of its recommendations on hunting regulations for the forthcoming waterfowl season the Council will split into two groups.

Louisiana and the other five states in the South will meet separately and this lower flyway group will develop its own recommendations on what we think the waterfowl hunting regulations should be. These will be presented to the director and staff of the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service at a meeting of the National Waterfowl Advisory Committee, which will take place on August 5 in Washington.

Also, there is a meeting out in Denver



on Sunday, July 25, and we plan to be in attendance at that meeting. It is called by the Fish & Wildlife Service for the purpose of explaining what the waterfowl production picture is on the breeding grounds. Just prior to that we plan to make a reconnaissance flight up on the prairies and in the park lands and in the bush country of Saskatchewan and Manitoba and Alberta, and on the return flight we will stop in at Denver for that one-day meeting, and hear what the Fish & Wildlife Service has to say.

Generally speaking, the information we have at this time indicates that we went into a fairly dry spring on the prairies, fair water in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and very dry over in Alberta and southwestern Saskatchewan. The ducks overflowed the dry areas and went on into the better, more permanently watered marshes to nest, and they also set up housekeeping on the prairies that had water in them in Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

Then things got very dry but fortunately in June rain set in and it rained almost the entire month of June and it completely changed the



outlook and it looks at this point like there is apparently a fairly good hatch of ducks taking place up in Canada at this time. We have been keeping our fingers crossed for three or four years because we have had good production, good water conditions on the prairies since 1969, and this is an unusually long wet cycle for that traditionally dry country up there. It looks like '76 is shaping up again to be a fairly good duck production year.

There will be an awful lot of controversy and infighting taking place in the development of these hunting regulations, as there always is, but this is the system we are going to use this year in presenting our views and recommendations. We will be in attendance at all of the meetings and we will be working with the other states in the South in trying to get what we want in the way of seasons and bag limits.

MR. LUTTRELL: Dick, you didn't mention who is representing us up there, and I am sort of very proud of who is representing us.

MR. YANCEY: Well, we had a meeting over



in Jackson, Mississippi, a couple of weeks ago, -- Mr. Luttrell was there -- of the Southern states and Larry Soileau was elected to be the coordinator of the Southern technical group and I was named to speak for the Southern administrators in the presentation of these recommendations at all these regulations committee meetings. Now, Hugh Bateman, our Commission waterfowl biologist, will be our working, voting delegate on the technical session in the Mississippi Flyway Council.

THE CHAIRMAN: Dick, I want to say this, I and I am sure the Commission want to thank you and congratulate you and your staff on what you have done in this Southern Flyway Council. It looks like in some sectors the South is going to rise again. We hope so.

MR. YANCEY: We hope so.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Clay, you want to make a motion? Go ahead.

MR. LUTTRELL: Yes, I have something to bring up. Gentlemen, when the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission acquired Saline Game Management Area, the Tensas Levee Board had a servitude on



a portion of that land, and they have now stated that they no longer have an interest in this land and that they are willing to give the servitude over to Wild Life and Fisheries Commission for its use.

This part is what I am talking about, right here (indicating on map).

I would like to say this, like to move that the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission accept the Tensas Levee Board's offer of servitude to this land, and that we also move that Peter Duffy be instructed to prepare the formal resolution that finalizes this thing.

MR. DUPUY: I will second that.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the motion and second. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Anybody opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

Mr. Thompson, I believe you wanted to make a motion.

MR. THOMPSON: I would like to make three



motions.

First, by way of explanation, I would like to say that there is no biological reason for having a closed season on frog hunting. Contrary to popular belief and from a biological standpoint, the peak breeding season is not in the two months that the frog hunting is closed but rather probably in August. Our neighboring states have a frog season, and I think most all of them have a year-round frog season, which has proven biologically successful. In the event of commercial frogging, this does put us a little bit behind, and from the sportsmen's standpoint, I see no reason for them to be penalized.

I would like to place in the form of a motion that through our Director, at the next acceptable legislation, a bill be placed in the hopper through some of the legislators to remedy this situation and make it a year-round frog hunting season.

MR. DUPUY: I second that.

THE CHAIRMAN: Motion by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Dupuy. All in favor, say aye.



IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

MR. THOMPSON: I would also again like to make a motion in reference to coon hunting. It is absolutely illegal for a boy to kill a coon in the daytime in the woods when he is hunting, which is done many, many times, and I won't go into that lengthy explanation that I have done many times before. I will just place in the form of a motion that through our Director this same procedure be adopted with the legislature in reference to coon hunting, so that coons can be killed in the daytime by anyone.

MR. WILLE: I will second that.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Wille. All in favor?

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any opposed?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

I might add, Mr. Thompson, I think that



you will find that the trappers catch and kill coons 24 hours a day. I don't think anybody has really obeyed that law for a long time.

MR. ENSMINGER: Well, a trapper legally can, but a hunter can't.

THE CHAIRMAN: There's justice in that, isn't there? (Laughter)

MR. THOMPSON: My third motion is that we adjourn.

THE CHAIRMAN: We stand adjourned.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned briefly but was called back in session for a point of clarification).

THE CHAIRMAN: Could we reconvene for a moment? Mr. Wille wants to say something.

MR. WILLE: When we were talking about printing the hunting regulations pamphlet, we adopted my suggestion that this be printed in at least eight-point type, but thinking about it, I think that should be amended to have Joe Herring look into the matter of getting the information, all the basic information, to whoever is going to do the printing for consideration, but I will



amend my motion that the print should be at least 9.5 point, which is the size of newspaper type.

MR. DUPUY: I will second that.

THE CHAIRMAN: All in favor?

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Hearing no opposition, it is unanimous. So ordered.

We stand adjourned.

. . . . Whereupon, at 11:55 o'clock a.m., the monthly meeting of the Board was adjourned. . . .

Kathryn G. Chamberlin,
Reporter.

